

Mayday 2022 – Ukraine Alarm!

Interviews – performance – magazine presentation

The brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine has once again brought the war to the borders of the European Union. May 9, Europe Day, is therefore this year primarily a day of solidarity with Ukraine. On Europe Day, Bozar traditionally organises lectures and debates concerning the state of the European Union under the title "Mayday". For the 2022 edition, journalists and academics from across Europe, but especially from Ukraine, will clarify the conflict. Artists and cultural workers will reflect upon the role which they can play when the guns speak. Dissident Russian voices who have been persecuted in their own country by President Putin's regime will also be featured.

[At the start of the war Bozar chose](#) to suspend cultural projects financed by the Russian state, but at the same time we stress that it is essential to keep the doors of our institutions open to all international artists who share the European values of freedom of expression, free movement, mutual respect and the rule of law, regardless of their origin and citizenship. It is in this spirit that we are organising Mayday 2022.

The schedule for Mayday 2022
(continuous from 5pm to 10 pm)

5pm – 5:15pm – Introduction

A poetic introduction by **Haska Shyyan (UA)**. She is a Ukrainian author of prose and poetry. She is also a translator, cultural manager and producer of book trailers and podcasts. In 2019, she won the European Union Prize for Literature for her novel *Behind Their Backs*. Poetry by her is published in Mayday Magazine#3. She talks about the position and engagement of Ukrainian artists in times of war. Haska Shyyan will explain in a conversation with **Karl van den Broeck (BE)** (Bozar, Writers&Thinkers) why it is important that Europeans no longer look at Ukraine with a Russian gaze.

5:15– 5:45pm – Mayday Magazine#3 – Presentation

Karl van den Broeck (BE) (Bozar, Writers & Thinkers) will interview **Teresa O'Connell (GB)** (Are We Europe), the editor-in-chief of Mayday Magazine, devoted entirely to the war in Ukraine. He will also talk to Ekaterina Martynova (RUS), who featured in the magazine.

Ekaterina Martynova (RUS) is a journalist for DOXA, one of Russia's few independent media outlets, born out of a student magazine. She fled Russia and now lives in Italy. Four of her colleagues were recently sentenced to four years of community service because they had expressed support for allies of the opposition leader, Alexei Navalny.

6pm – 6:45pm – Art at War

Pieter Vermeulen (BE) is an art critic, curator, lecturer and writer for HART Magazine. He will discuss with the invited guests the role European cultural organisations and initiatives play

in protecting Ukrainian artists and place it in a broader framework. How can we support artists at risk? What can art at war? The invited guests include:

Co-Founding Director and curator of Perpetuum Mobile and Artists at Risk, **Marita Muukkonen (FI)** is an internationally active curator based in Helsinki. She curated and produced exhibitions and projects at museums such as MoMA in New York and Moderna Museet in Sweden, as well as the Finnish, the Nordic and the Perpetual Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2009.

Co-Founding Director and curator of Perpetuum Mobile and Artists at Risk, **Ivor A Stodolsky (FI)** is an internationally active curator, writer and theorist. His doctoral research at Helsinki University was centred on the Russian cultural underground of the 80s and 90s.

Perpetuum Mobile established the **Artists at Risk (AR)** platform based on residency work initiated in 2014. The AR-Safe Haven Helsinki residency for visual art practitioners and musicians at risk has secured funding and gained national recognition, winning the “Annual Art Act Award” at ArtHelsinki in 2016.

Born in 1971 in Kiev, Ukraine, **Kristina Solomoukha (UA)** is a visual artist living and working in France. She is currently teaching in EnsAD, Paris and EESAB in Rennes. Her installations, drawings and video have been widely exhibited in France and internationally. Her works are part of many Regional Contemporary Art Funds in France.

Marie le Goux (FR) is financial and HR director at the Cité internationale des Arts in Paris. This institution set up an emergency aid programme to receive artists and cultural professionals from Ukraine or affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

7pm – 7:45pm – “Today” – an immersive performance by Queer Studio (with Pussy Riot member)

At Mayday 2022, director, activist, founder of Queer Studio, **Viktoria Naraxsa** will present a performance based on letters from Ukrainian refugees to their loved ones. Together with the letters, video installations by Ukrainian performer, director and actress **Yuliia Savchenko** and Pussy Riot member, director and screen writer **Anna Kuzminykh** will play a central role.

The performance is based on documentary stories–letters of Ukrainians divided by the war. Since the beginning of military invasion in Ukraine, many people have not only been unable to see each other, but in principle to communicate with their loved ones. Each story is unique and through the prism of human relations reflects the essence of war atrocities in Ukraine. They want these stories to be heard, to get into the hearts of people in other countries, so that their ritual action would have the opportunity to influence what is happening.

Yuliia Savchenko (UA) is a director, performer and actress from Kharkiv, Ukraine. She graduated from Kharkiv State Academy of Culture in Ukraine in 2012 and has since intensively worked as a performer and director in Ukraine and more recently in Germany.

Viktoria Naraxsa (RUS) is a director, activist and performing artist. She has choreographed Pussy Riot’s performance *Chaika* and worked with Nadya Tolokonnikova. She was detained in Russia together with Maria Alyokhina and Lusia Stein, authored [*Ten Days in Russian Prison*](#), and since fled Russia.

Anna (Anya) Kuzminykh (RUS) is a screenwriter and film director from Russia, known for her work as a human rights defender and member of Pussy Riot. In the summer of 2021, Kuzminykh was forced to flee Russia due to constant threats, cyber-attacks and repeated arrests.

8pm – 8:45pm – Meet the Historian: Andrii Portnov

Andrii Portnov (UA) is Professor for the "Entangled History of Ukraine" at the European University Viadrina (Frankfurt (Oder), DE). The bulk of his publications are devoted to intellectual history, the writing of history, genocide and memory studies in Poland, Russia and Ukraine. He recently published *Poland and Ukraine. Entangled Histories, Asymmetric Memories*.

He will be interviewed by **Vojtěch Boháč (CZ)**, a Czech journalist who lived in Russia for a long time and was a reporter in the war zone in Ukraine. He is the editor-in-chief of the news site VoxPot.

9pm – 10pm – Meet the director: Sergei Loznitsa

Sergei Loznitsa (UA) is a welcome guest at Bozar. Many of his films have been screened by Bozar, often in his presence. Both in his documentary (*The Babi Yar. Context* (2021), *State Funeral* (2019), *Victory Day* (2018,) *Austerlitz* (2016), *Maïdan* (2014) and feature films (*Donbass* (2018), *In the fog* (2012), *My joy* (2010)) He explores the subjects of historical memory, propaganda, war traumas and their impact on the society at large.

He will be interviewed by **Aude Merlin (BE)**, a lecturer at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and a Russia and Caucasus specialist. The interview will be done in Russian with a translation to English by **Daria Bocharnikova (BE)** (Bozar)

Box text about Mayday

At Bozar, Europe Day is "Mayday"

On 9 May 1950, Robert Schuman made an ambitious declaration which laid the foundations for the European Union. Europe Day is therefore, for Bozar, traditionally the ideal time to reflect upon the future of the continent.

Bozar celebrates 9 May traditionally under the title "Mayday," a nod to the distress signal from the maritime world and to the most beautiful month of spring.

Schuman opened his famous statement with the sentence, "World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it". On Mayday 2022, Bozar will engage with artists, writers and thinkers from across Europe – and, of course, Ukraine – in search of the best "creative efforts" which can guarantee peace.

In collaboration with the pan-European collective Are We Europe, Bozar is already presenting its third edition of the Mayday Magazine, at a time when the Russian invasion of Ukraine is putting the EU sorely to the test, but also bringing it closer together. Can the EU finally call itself a union? Or does that unity only assert itself when the need is greatest?

Additional information

- Admission is free, but you must register
- The venue will be open continuously, so you can choose between the debates and interviews. But you can also stay all evening.
- Mayday Magazine is on sale for 15 euros.

Partners

Lead partner: Evens Foundation

Support: Bertelsmann Foundation, Are We Europe, HART, Czech Centre Brussels, Culture Action Europe, European Youth Forum, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Finnish Institute Benelux.